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Yugoslav Chief of Staff Dies

Colonel General Viktor Bubanj, chief of staff of the Yugoslav Armed Forces, died suddenly in Belgrade yesterday, according to Tanjug. Bubanj was 53 years old and there is no record of major health problems in his CRS file. No details of his death were released but it is possible that Bubanj, a qualified pilot, was killed in an air accident.

Bubanj will be missed. He was a firm proponent of the territorial defense concept in the military hierarchy and also served Tito well as a spokesman for federal goals in the military. A major state funeral is being prepared.

Assistant chief of staff for operations, Colonel General Petar Matic will probably assume Bubanj's duties until a new chief of staff can be selected.

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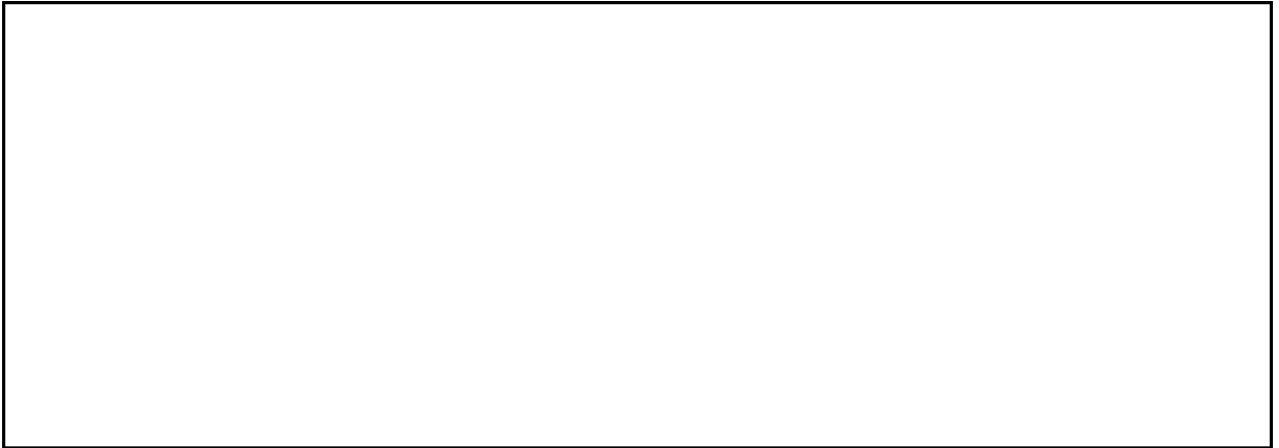
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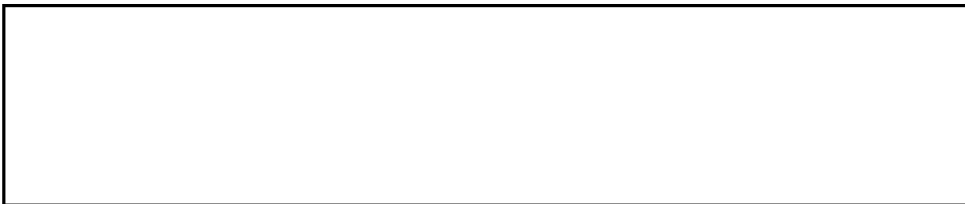
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